

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 01632 132348 Z

67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 PC-04 RSR-01 /109 W
----- 067191

R 132212 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4040

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1632

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT

SUBJ: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS RUMINATE ON PAST AND FUTURE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PDC PLENUM AGREED PERMIT CODE TO EXPIRE, BUT DENOUNCED ALLENDE GOVT' S " TOTALITARIAN" BENT AND LEFT DOOR OPEN TO CONTINUED COOPERATION WITH RIGHTWING FORCES, WHILE UNDERSCORING PDC' S COMMUNITARIAN SOCIALIST IDEALS. COMPROMISE FINAL RESOLUTION CONSIDERABLY RESTRAINED LEFTWINGERS' ZEAL TO PROJECT PARY AS " REVOLUTIONARY" ALTERNATIVE TO UP, BUT FURTHER DEBATE APPARENTLY DEFERRED TO MAY 12-13 JUNTA. MEANWHILE, GOVT ACTIONS SEEM PRECLUDE, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, ANY SOFTENING OF PDC OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. 130- DELEGATE PDC PLENUM (NATIONAL COUNCIL PLUS PARLIAMENTARIANS, DEPARTMENT HEADS AND PROVINCIAL BOSSES) CONVENED BEHIND CLOSED DOORS SANTIAGO APR 7-8 TO CONSIDER IMPLICATIONS OF RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION AND PARTY' S FUTURE STRATEGY. MELDING OF OPINIONS WAS CHARGED TO LARGELY LEFTWING EXECUTIVE BOARD AND FREISTA TEAM OF JAIME CASTILLO, PATRICIO ROJAS, RAUL TRONCOSO AND SEN PATRICIO AYLWIN; FINAL RESOLUTION DID NOT EMERGE UNTIL APR 11 (FBIS HAS TEXT).

3. THIS SUMMARY DOCUMENT ATTACKED ALLENDE GOVT' S " TOTALITARIAN DEVIATIONS"; ASSERTED THAT ELECTIONS CONFIRMED PDC' S FIRST PLACE AMONG POLITICAL FORCES, AND CONSTITUTED " CLEAR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 01632 132348 Z

VICTORY" GIVING OPPOSITION PARTIES EVEN MORE RIGHT TO INSIST GOVT " RECTIFY PROCEDURES AND OBJECTIVES"; REITERATED PARTY' S COMMITMENT TO " HUMANISTIC SOCIALISM" AND " ECONOMY OF PARTICIPATION," RATHER THAN UP' S BUREAUCRATIC STATISM OR ANACHRONISTIC / CAPITALIST STRUCTURES"; EXHORTED CHILEANS NOT TO LET SELVES BE INTIMIDATED; AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE UP CAN BE DEFEATED BY " DEMOCRATIC MEANS."

5. KEY QUESTION OF PDC' S FUTURE RELATIONS WITH GOVT ON ONE HAND AND RIGHTWING FORCES ON OTHER WAS HANDLED WITH SOME CAUTION. UNSURPRISINGLY, RESOLUTION INDICATED PDC WOULD ALLOW CODE ELECTORAL ALLIANCE TO EXPIRE MAY 20. BEYOND THAT, PLENUM RECOMMENDED STRENGTHENING TIES TO MINISCULE ALLIES PIR AND PADENA AND MAINTENANCE OF " DEFERENTIAL ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTIES OR MOVEMENTS WHICH SHARE VIEWS ON DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY, WHATEVER THEIR PROGRAMMATIC MUANCES" (READ PN AND GREMIALISTAS). RESOLUTION ALSO DECLARED PDC' S READINESS " TO SUPPORT GOVT IF IT NOTES DESIRE ON ITS PART TO REESTABLISH MORAL AUTHORITY AND DEMOCRACY, " AS WELL AS WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE WITH OPPOSITION OR GOVT FORCES ON " SPECIFIC TOPICS OF NATIONAL INTEREST."

5. IN SEVERAL RESPECTS THIS SUMMARY RESOLUTION WAS FLABBIER DOCUMENT THAN PARTY PRES RENAN FUENTEALBA' S REPORT WHICH OPENED SESSION. THAT PAPER, EVEN IN APPARENTLY SANITIZED VERSION WHICH REACHED PRESS, WAS MORE REPRESENTATIVE OF LEFTWING THINKING IN ITS STRESS ON PDC AS " REVOLUTIONARY" ALTERNATIVE TO MARXISM, AND NEED TO REASSERT PARTY' AUTONOMY AND RESUSCITATE FAR- REACHING 1970 TOMIC CAMPAIGN PLATFORM. FUENTEALBA' S SNIPING AT PN AND AT " ANTI- DEMOCRATIC" TENDENCIES WITHIN GREMIALISTA MOVEMENT INCLUDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT AT LEAST SOME OF OCTOBER SHUTDOWN' INSPIRATION WAS " GOLPISTA," WAS ABSENT OR MUCH SOFTENED IN FINAL RESOLUTION, AS WAS WARNING THAT PDC BEWARE " LEST IT BE DRAGGED OR CORNERED ON THE SIDE OF THE COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES...." AND IMPLICATION THAT PDC HAD TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED ITSELF WITH MIDDLE CLASS ECONOMIC INTERESTS. FUENTEALBA ALSO WARNED AGAINST SETTING IN OF " PESSIMISM AND DEMMRAIZATION" IN WAKE MARCH 4 ELECTION.

6. FORMER PJES FREI WAS ONE OF WEEKEND' S PRINCIPAL ORATORS. HIS EMOTION- LADEN ADDRESS BORE DOWN HARD ON UP SINS, AND HE INSISTENTLY RECALLED " CAMPAIGN OF HATE," INCLUDING ALLEGED THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE. REPORTEDLY HE RECEIVED SYMPATHETIC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 01632 132348 Z

HEARING.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON NEED TO BEEF- UPP PDC AT GRASS ROOTS, ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CELL- LIKE INTERNAL STRUCTURE, AND GIVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO WORKING CLASS REPS IN PARTY AFFAIRS.

8. COMMENT: MOST ACCOUNTS AGREE THIS WAS NOT ONE OF PDC' S MORE TURBULENT CONCLAVES. ACCORDING TO LEFTWING MEMBER OF PARTY' S NATIONAL COUNCIL, THERE WAS LITTLE OPEN DISAGREEMENT. SPEAKERS (FUENTEALBA; FREI; TOMIC; SENATORS OLGUIN, PRADO AND PABLO; YOUTH LEADER RICARDO HORMAZABAL; AND DEPUTY GLANCA RETAMAL) TENDED TO MAKE MUCH SAME POINTS, ALBEIT WITH VARIATIONS IN EMPHASIS. RATHER THAN DEEPEN DEBATE, INCLINATION WAS TO DEFER DIFFICULT ISSUES TO PDC JUNTA NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY 12-13. THERE LONG- POSTPONED ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD IS TO TAKE PLACE. THERE IS TALK IN PARTY CIRCLES THAT FREISTAS MAY SEEK UNSEAT FUENTEALBA " MESA" IF NOT FUENTEALBA HIMSELF.

9. HOWEVER, PDCERS OF ALL STRIPES SEEM APPRECIATE THAT AS LONG AS GOVT PERSISTS IN HOSTILE INITIATIVES, PDC INTERNAL DEBATE ON WISDOM OF PERMISSIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ELEMENTS OF UP PROGRAM IS ACADEMIC ONE. THIS SEEMS AMPLY BORNE OUT BY RINGING PDC DENUNCIATIONS THIS PAST WEEK OF NATIONAL UNIFIED SCHOOL PROJECT, " ILLEGAL" GOVT MOVES IN TV FIELD, RENEWED UP RECOURSE TO DECREES OF INSISTENCE, AS WELL AS PDC DECISION TO CHALLENGE VALIDITY OF EXECUTIVE' S YEAR- OLD VETO OF DORMANT " THREE- AREAS" BILL AND BERNARDO LEIGHTON' S IMPASSIONED PUBLIC DEFENSE OF FREI IN WAKE OF STERN ARTICLE. ONE LEFTWING PDC SOURCE RUEFULLY OBSERVED THAT WHEN ALLENDE AND COMMUNISTS CONFRONT CHOICE BETWEEN RISK OF ALIENATING UP HARDLINERS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SOFTEN PDC OPPOSITION, UP UNITY REMAINS PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION. DAVIS

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SANTIA01632
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730442/aaaaincl.tel
Line Count: 153
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980113; jms 980113
Subject: CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS RUMINATE ON PAST AND FUTURE
TAGS: PINT, CI, PINT
To: ARA
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005